

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** **Gary Davidson**

**Serial No.:** **10/552,954**

**Filing Date:** **October 14, 2005**

**Title:** **Prepaid Wireless System and Method**

**Examiner:** **Huy D. Nguyen**

**Art Unit:** **2617**

**Atty Docket No.:** **AAIRB.0102US**

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**Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P O Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**APPELLANT'S BRIEF**

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on July 16, 2007.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$250.00 Appeal Brief filing fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0392. No other fees are believed to be necessary. If, however, any other fees are required, I hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge these additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0392.

## **I. REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST**

The real parties in interest in this appeal are the following: Gary Davidson and Walter Fuqua.

## **II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

With respect to other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there are no such appeals or interferences.

## **III. STATUS OF CLAIMS**

### **A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION**

Claims in the application are: 1 - 32.

### **B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS IN APPLICATION**

1. Claims pending: 1-32.
2. Claims previously cancelled: None.
3. Claims withdrawn: None.
4. Claims rejected: 1-32.
5. Claims allowed: None.
6. Claims cancelled in accompanying amendment: None.

### **C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL**

The claims on appeal are: 1-32.

## **IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

No amendments were filed after final rejection.

## V. SUMMARY CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention as recited in independent claim 1 provides a mobile unit comprising memory and storage medium for use with prepaid wireless services.<sup>1</sup> In typical prepaid wireless service plans, users purchase a wireless telephone and pay in advance for the wireless service.<sup>2</sup> As the user incurs charges, the charges are deducted from the advance payment.<sup>3</sup> However, when a prepaid subscriber places or receives a telephone call, the network accesses a database to verify the balance in the user's account and many times maintains access to the database for the duration of the call to update the account.<sup>4</sup> Such continual access of the database by the wireless service network is costly and uses resources that could otherwise be devoted to other services.<sup>5</sup> The present invention solves these problems by maintaining in memory on the mobile unit a balance of available time that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize the wireless service.<sup>6</sup> As the mobile unit utilizes wireless services, program code in the storage medium deducts the duration of the call from the available time balance in memory and allows the mobile unit to continue utilizing the wireless service as long as the duration of the call is less than or equal to the available time balance.<sup>7</sup>

The present invention as recited in independent claim 11 provides a mobile unit comprising memory and storage medium for use with prepaid wireless services.<sup>8</sup> The present invention maintains in memory on the mobile unit a balance of available flat-rate time units that the mobile unit is pre-authorized to use.<sup>9</sup> Upon determination that a user is attempting to utilize wireless service with the mobile unit, program code in the storage medium determines if the available balance of flat-rate time units in memory is above a specified limit and allows the mobile unit to connect to the wireless service if the balance of time units is above the specified limit.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Application, page 1, lines 8-9.

<sup>2</sup> Application, page 1, lines 23-24.

<sup>3</sup> Application, page 1, lines 25-26.

<sup>4</sup> Application, page 1, line 30 – page 2, line 3.

<sup>5</sup> Application, page 2, lines 3-4.

<sup>6</sup> Application, page 2, lines 11-13.

<sup>7</sup> Application, page 2, lines 13-14.

<sup>8</sup> Application, page 2, lines 15-16.

<sup>9</sup> Application, page 2, line 17.

<sup>10</sup> Application, page 2, lines 18-21.

The present invention as recited in independent claim 21 provides a mobile unit comprising memory and storage medium for use with prepaid wireless services.<sup>11</sup> The present invention maintains in memory on the mobile unit a balance of flat-rate minutes of wireless service the mobile unit is pre-authorized to use.<sup>12</sup> Program code in the storage medium monitors the duration of wireless service utilization by the mobile unit and discontinues utilization of wireless service if the duration of use exceeds the balance of available flat-rate minutes stored in memory.<sup>13</sup>

The present invention as recited in independent claim 29 provides a prepaid application system with a storage medium.<sup>14</sup> The storage medium includes program code that receives an indication that mobile device user has prepaid for a first amount of flat-rates minutes of wireless service.<sup>15</sup> The program code in the storage medium notifies the mobile unit that is authorized to utilize said first amount of flat-rate minutes of wireless service.<sup>16</sup>

The present invention as recited in independent claim 31 provides a prepaid application system with a storage medium.<sup>17</sup> The storage medium includes program code that receives an indication that a mobile unit has utilized a first amount of wireless service time.<sup>18</sup> The program code deactivates the mobile unit if it determines that the amount of wireless service time utilized by the mobile unit is equal or greater than a prepaid amount of flat-rate time.<sup>19</sup>

The present invention as recited in independent claim 32 provides a prepaid application system with a storage medium.<sup>20</sup> The storage medium includes program code that receives an indication that mobile device user prepaid for wireless services.<sup>21</sup> The program code notifies a

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<sup>11</sup> Application, page 2, lines 22-23.

<sup>12</sup> Application, page 2, line 24.

<sup>13</sup> Application, page 2, lines 25-27.

<sup>14</sup> Application, page 2, line 28.

<sup>15</sup> Application, page 2, line 30.

<sup>16</sup> Application, page 2, lines 31-32.

<sup>17</sup> Application, page 2, line 33-34.

<sup>18</sup> Application, page 2, line 35.

<sup>19</sup> Application, page 3, lines 1-2.

<sup>20</sup> Application, page 3, line 3.

<sup>21</sup> Application, page 3, line 5.

plurality of wireless service providers that the mobile device is authorized to utilize the wireless service provider.<sup>22</sup>

## **VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-14, 17, 19-24, 27, 29, 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Loder (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,720).

Claims 5, 15, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the patent to Loder (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,720) in view of Doran et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2006/0069642 A1).

Claims 6, 16, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the patent to Loder (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,720) in view of Doran et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2006/0069642 A1), and further in view of Laybourn et al. (U.S. Pub. Bo. 2003/0008634 A1).

Claims 8, 18, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the patent to Loder (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,720).

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the patent to Loder (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,720) in view of Laybourn et al. (U.S. Pub. Bo. 2003/0008634 A1).

## **GROUPING OF CLAIMS**

For purposes of the present appeal, the claims can be divided into the following groups:

- I.       Claims 1-28
- II.      Claims 29-31
- III.     Claim 32

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<sup>22</sup> Application, page 3, lines 5-6.

## VII. ARGUMENTS

### REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

#### Group I:

Prior to discussing the specific claims under appeal, we shall look first at the final rejection. The final Office Action states:

Regarding claims 1, 11, 21, 29, 31, 32, Loder teaches a mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps: retrieving from memory (e.g., SIM) an available amount of time that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize wireless services with the mobile unit (e.g., an ability to hold a record of amount of funds prepaid for at the point of the sale is incorporated within a subscriber identity module, SIM – see column 3, lines 26-28); allowing the mobile unit to utilize wireless services for a first time period, the first time period being less than or equal to the available amount; and deducting the first time period from the available amount (e.g., this payment record will progressively decrease [sic] as services of the network are used according to tarif rate which is either preprogrammed into the SIM or sent by the network – see column 3, lines 31-34).

A close reading of Loder reveals that Loder does not teach the limitations of the claimed invention and in fact teaches away from the invention. Specifically, Loder teaches storing and adjusting a balance of available funds on a SIM card. In contrast, independent claims 1, 11, and 21 of the present invention specifically recite storing and managing a balance of available time, not funds:

1. A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:

retrieving from memory an available amount of time that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize wireless services with the mobile unit;

allowing the mobile unit to utilize wireless services for a first time period, the first time period being less than or equal to the available amount; and

deducting the first time period from the available amount.

11. A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:

storing in memory a first amount of flat-rate time units that the mobile unit is pre-authorized to utilize;

receiving a first indication that a user is attempting to utilize the mobile unit to connect to a wireless service provider;

retrieving the first amount of flat-rate time units from memory;  
determining whether the first amount of flat-rate time units is above a first limit;  
and

upon determining the first amount of flat-rate time units is above the first limit, allowing the mobile unit to connect to the wireless service provider.

21. A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:

retrieving from memory a first amount of flat-rate minutes that the mobile unit is pre-authorized to utilize wireless services;

monitoring a first time period that the mobile unit utilizes wireless services; and

causing wireless services to be discontinued when the first time period is greater than or equal to the first amount of flat-rate minutes.

None of the embodiments taught in Loder involve maintaining a balance of available time units. Instead, Loder maintains a balance of *funds* on a SIM card, which requires additional calculation steps and control signals from the wireless network not required by the present invention. In the sections cited by the Examiner, Loder teaches:

According to the invention, an ability to hold a record of amount of funds prepaid for at the point of the sale is incorporated within a subscriber identity module, SIM. This prepaid amount will ultimately go back to the network operator. This payment record will progressively degrease [sic] as services of the network are used according to tarif rate which is either preprogrammed into the SIM or sent by the network. This payment record may also be displayed on the mobile equipment. (col. 3, lines 26-34)

In Loder, the decision whether or not to authorize and maintain a call is specifically based on the remaining available funds, not time:

The SIM monitors the remaining value of the payment and, when the value of the payment reaches a predetermined minimum value, prevents further outgoing (mobile originating) or incoming (mobile terminating) calls from or to the mobile station, respectively. This blocking of the mobile station may be affected by a specific blocking command outputted to a mobile equipment part of the mobile station, or by disabling network operation functions, such as authentication algorithms, in the SIM. In one embodiment of the invention, the network transmits charging information messages and requires an acknowledgement from the mobile station. Upon receiving the charging information message, the SIM checks the remaining value of the payment and prevents the transmission of the acknowledgement in response to the value not being sufficient for the call. Not receiving the acknowledgement within a preset time, the network terminates the ongoing call or set-up procedure. If the remaining value of the payment is

sufficient for a call, the acknowledgement will be transmitted, and the the [sic] call set-up procedure or the call will be continued normally. (col. 3, lines 34-57)

According to the present invention, an ability to hold a record of the amount of funds prepaid for at the point of sale is incorporated within the SIM. The amount of the prepaid funds is gradually decreased during the use of the services of the radio system, and further calls are prevented. For example, in a GSM system, an existing SIM is modified so that it comprises within its security an electrically alterable memory location. This may be implemented e.g., in an EEPROM or FLASH memory circuit. This memory circuit can then have a number representing the amount of prepaid funds programmed into it via a programming device. The programming may be performed at the point of sale location or during manufacture. A SIM card may be reprogrammable (reusable) or one time programmable (disposable). (col. 5, lines 41-55)

Storing and managing a balance of funds on the SIM card requires additional process steps and resources that are not necessary using the present invention. Loder requires additional processing resources and code for calculating a specific monetary charge to be deducted from the funds balance stored in memory as a function of elapsed time. This is determined according to a specific tariff rate (see col. 6, lines 58-6, Fig. 4 step 48, col. 7, lines 25-29, Fig. 5 step 59, col. 8, lines 11-15, Fig. 6 step 69). Because the invention recited in claims 1, 11, and 21 directly manage and store a balance of time units in memory, not available funds, there is no need to devote resources in the mobile unit to perform this calculation.

Furthermore, the calculation of funds depletion in Loder depends on the transmission of “e” parameters from the network to the mobile unit. These “e” parameters include advice of charge information, time tariff rates, and special “e” parameters that require acknowledgement from the mobile unit.

The present invention does not require such “e” parameters and control signals from the network, thereby reducing the amount of network resources required to manage account information in connection with a call.

In response to the above arguments, the Final Office Action goes on to state:

In the remarks, the applicant submitted that Loder doesn’t teach tracking a balance of available time units. The examiner responds that Loder teaches tracking and adjusting a balance of available funds on a SIM card (see col. 3, lines 26-34). It’s inherent that to adjust the balance of available funds, the time units have to be tracked.

The Examiner has mischaracterized the limitations of the claimed invention. The present invention does not merely track elapsed time units. All wireless mobile units have call duration timers. The present invention provides resources in the mobile unit that store and manage a user balance of available time and limit the use of the mobile unit according to that available time balance. These resources and functions are separate from and in addition to a call duration timer.

As explained above, Loder relies on several “e” parameters in order to make the proper calculation of monetary units as a function of elapsed time. After this monetary value is calculated, it is deducted from the balance of funds, and a new funds balance is written into memory, not a time balance. Therefore, while the adjustment of the funds balance in Loder inherently requires the tracking of time units, it does not inherently involve managing and storing a time balance in memory. Doing so would require resources in addition to those used for managing and storing the funds balance data.

Loder to a large extent maintains the standard billing structure used in telecommunication regarding price discrimination between different times of use. The present invention relies on a different business model than the prior art, i.e. flat rate time units versus variable rates, and therefore implements different engineering of the mobile unit or SIM card in order to facilitate this business model.

Because claims 2-4, 7, 9-10, 12-14, 17, 19-20, 22-24 and 27 depend from claims 1, 11, and 21, respectively, they are distinguished from Loder for the reasons set forth above.

Therefore it is respectfully asserted that the rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9-14, 17, 19-24, 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome and should not be sustained.

These claims are therefore allowable.

## **Group II:**

Loder does not teach the limitations of claims 29 and 31. Like the mobile unit recited in claims 1, 11, and 21, claims 29 and 31 recite a prepaid application system that also manages a balance of time units, not a balance of funds:

29. A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:
  - receiving an indication that a user of a mobile device has prepaid for a first amount of flat-rate minutes of wireless services; and
  - notifying the mobile unit that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize the first amount of flat-rate minutes of wireless services.

31. A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:
  - receiving an indication that a mobile unit has utilized a first amount of time of wireless services;
  - determining whether the first amount of time is greater than or equal to a prepaid amount of flat-rate time; and
  - deactivating the mobile unit if the first amount of time is greater than or equal to the prepaid amount of flat-rate time.

Again, Loder does not disclose a prepaid application system that manages a balance of time units. Loder does not teach notifying the mobile unit that it is authorized to utilize the prepaid amount of flat-rate minutes because the system taught in Loder does not deal in time units, but funds. The Loder invention cannot notify the mobile unit as to the amount of wireless service time it can use because that amount will vary with the particular tariff rate applied to a given call.

Similarly, the Loder invention does not deactivate the mobile unit after the lapse of a specified amount time but rather after the exhaustion of specified amount of funds, which will vary as a function of time according to the tariff rate applied to a call.

Unlike Loder, in the present invention there is no conversion of elapsed time to a monetary charge, nor is there a need to use network resources to send “e” parameters and control signals to the mobile unit in order make such monetary calculations.

Therefore it is respectfully asserted that the rejection of claims 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome and should not be sustained.

These claims are therefore allowable.

### **Group III:**

Loder does not teach the limitations of claim 32, and in fact teaches away from the limitations of claim 32, which recite:

32. A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:
  - receiving an indication that a user of a mobile device has prepaid for wireless services; and
  - notifying a plurality of wireless service providers that the mobile device is authorized to utilize the wireless service provider.

Instead of facilitating access across multiple wireless service providers, the Loder invention moves in the opposite direction by providing users with temporary access to a local wireless service provider without having to establish an account with them or establish roaming agreements between service providers:

The user of the prepaid SIM of the present invention has not been processed or registered on the network operators billing data bases, but still has an access to a network because of having prepaid for all call charges. Hence, details of address and credit worthiness of the user are not needed. As a result, the network operator gains short term customers without extensive credit checking and billing operations. Difficulty in obtaining roaming agreement between different network operators will not stop the universality of the global radio system, as GSM, since prepaid SIMs could be available with rental mobile equipments to give travellers immediate access to the new country's network. The invention also allows the SIM holders to know their spending limit, especially when in a new country with unknown charging rates. The invention also allows tourists to hire a mobile phone and a prepaid SIM in very little time and in more remote locations. (col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 14)

There is no teach in Loder regarding the authorizing a prepaid user account across a plurality of wireless service providers.

Therefore it is respectfully asserted that the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome and should not be sustained.

This claim is therefore allowable.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

#### **Group I:**

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 15 and 25 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loder in view of Doran et al. (US Patent Application No. 2006/0069642). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Because claims 5, 15 and 25 depend from claims 1, 11 and 21, respectively, they are distinguished from Loder and Doran for the reasons set forth above. Both Loder and Doran teach the addition of monetary value to a funds balance, whereas claims 5, 15 and 25 claim the addition of time units to the balance, not funds.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 16 and 26 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loder in view of Doran and in further view of Laybourn et al (US Patent Application No. 2003/0008634). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Because claims 6, 16 and 26 depend from claims 1, 11 and 21, respectively, they are distinguished from Loder, Doran and Laybourn for the reasons set for above. Claims 6, 16 and 26 cover the addition of time units, not monetary units as taught in Loder, Doran and Laybourn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 18 and 28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loder. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Because claims 8, 18 and 28 depend from claims 1, 11 and 21, respectively, they are distinguished from Loder for the reasons set for above.

Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 18, 25, 26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome and should not be sustained.

These claims are therefore allowable.

**Group II:**

The Examiner has rejected claim 30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Loder in view of Laybourn. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Because claim 30 depends from claim 29 it is distinguished from Loder and Laybourn for the reasons set for above.

Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome and should not be sustained.

This claim is therefore allowable.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the above arguments, Appellant respectfully submits that all the extant claims are allowable over the cited prior art and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to overturn the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: October 11, 2007

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## **VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX**

1. A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:
  - retrieving from memory an available amount of time that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize wireless services with the mobile unit;
  - allowing the mobile unit to utilize wireless services for a first time period, the first time period being less than or equal to the available amount; and
  - deducting the first time period from the available amount.
2. The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.
3. The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the memory is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.
4. The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit utilizes the wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.
5. The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the computer program code is further configured to receive an indication that a user has prepaid for a second amount of time and adding the second amount of time to the available amount of time.
6. The mobile unit of claim 5, wherein the indication is received via a short message service (SMS) message.
7. The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the computer program code is further configured to provide a notification to the user when the available amount of time reaches one or more thresholds.
8. The mobile unit of claim 7, wherein the notification comprises an audio tone or a text message.

9. The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the wireless services include receiving an incoming call.

10. The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the wireless services include placing an outgoing call.

11. A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:

storing in memory a first amount of flat-rate time units that the mobile unit is pre-authorized to utilize;

receiving a first indication that a user is attempting to utilize the mobile unit to connect to a wireless service provider;

retrieving the first amount of flat-rate time units from memory;

determining whether the first amount of flat-rate time units is above a first limit; and

upon determining the first amount of flat-rate time units is above the first limit, allowing the mobile unit to connect to the wireless service provider.

12. The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the storage medium is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

13. The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the memory is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

14. The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the mobile unit utilizes the wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.

15. The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the computer program code is further configured to receive a second indication that a user has prepaid for a second amount of time and adding the second amount of time to- the first amount of flat-rate units.

16. The mobile unit of claim 15, wherein the second indication is received via a short message service (SMS) message.
17. The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the computer program code is further configured to provide a notification to the user when the available amount of time reaches one or more thresholds.
18. The mobile unit of claim 17, wherein the notification comprises an audio tone or a text message.
19. The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the wireless services include receiving an incoming call.
20. The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the wireless services include placing an outgoing call.
21. A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:
  - retrieving from memory a first amount of flat-rate minutes that the mobile unit is pre-authorized to utilize wireless services;
  - monitoring a first time period that the mobile unit utilizes wireless services; and
  - causing wireless services to be discontinued when the first time period is greater than or equal to the first amount of flat-rate minutes.
22. The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the storage medium is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.
23. The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the memory is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.
24. The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the mobile unit utilizes the wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.

25. The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the computer program code is further configured to receive a second indication that a user has prepaid for a second amount of time and adding the second amount of time to the first amount of flat-rate units.
26. The mobile unit of claim 25, wherein the second indication is received via a short message service (SMS) message.
27. The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the computer program code is further configured to provide a notification to the user when the available amount of time reaches one or more thresholds.
28. The mobile unit of claim 27, wherein the notification comprises an audio tone or a text message.
29. A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:
  - receiving an indication that a user of a mobile device has prepaid for a first amount of flat-rate minutes of wireless services; and
  - notifying the mobile unit that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize the first amount of flat-rate minutes of wireless services.
30. The prepaid application system of claim 29, wherein the step of notifying is performed by transmitting a short message service (SMS) message to the mobile unit.

31. A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:

receiving an indication that a mobile unit has utilized a first amount of time of wireless services;

determining whether the first amount of time is greater than or equal to a prepaid amount of flat-rate time; and

deactivating the mobile unit if the first amount of time is greater than or equal to the prepaid amount of flat-rate time.

32. A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:

receiving an indication that a user of a mobile device has prepaid for wireless services; and

notifying a plurality of wireless service providers that the mobile device is authorized to utilize the wireless service provider.

## **IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX**

No affidavits have been submit and relied upon by the Appellant under 37 CFR §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 in the pending appeal.

## **X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

There have been no decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding pursuant to 37 CFR 41.37 (c)(1)(ii).